



Newsletter

JUNE 2021

It's never too early to start talking about online safety

As a parent or carer, you can help to keep your child safe and ensure they get the most out of being online.

On this page:

- Why is online safety important for under 5s?
- What are the risks?
- Practical tips to use with under 5s

We all put safety measures in place for young children, from baby gates to sun protection and encouraging road awareness. Now that using digital devices is part of daily family life, it's a good idea to take steps to keep them safe too. When you think about it, children are watching and experiencing life online from a very early age. Babies may see their parents using screens from the moment the first photo of them is snapped. Their early babbling words can be shared with grandparents on video calls. Many toddlers can swipe before they can talk.



(Cont'd...Page 5)

FROM THE NOMINATED SUPERVISOR'S DESK

Wow, the year is half gone already!! We are coming up to our June/July school holidays. Where has the time gone? We have a really exciting day planned next week and our Kindy class can't wait!! We have been invited by St Brendan's Catholic Primary School to come and join in on their Under 8's day next Wednesday. We are so lucky to have such a close bond with the school. It is so special for our Kindy class to be able to go weekly to the school so when it is their turn next year, they are comfortable and confident in their surroundings.



Thank you all for your participation in our Centre wide photo day. We should receive the photos back very soon. We will let you know as soon as we receive them. Can't wait to see how beautiful all our little cherubs look 😊

We have had some really lovely friendship fostered between the older children and the babies.

With the colder weather we are having, we have been spending more time together as a group. The older ones are really enjoying having some more responsibility and have been asking if they can "care" for the babies. It's been so lovely to watch them taking turns to play with the little ones and always making sure they have everything they need.



UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

NAIDOC Week	4 th -11 th
Friday 23 rd	PJ Day
Friday 30 th	Friendship Day

COMMUNITY LINKS/EVENTS

Clock Tower Tours Museum of Brisbane

Level 3
Brisbane City Hall
Brisbane

For times visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/clock-tower-tours-tickets-128205037719?utm-campaign=social%2Cemail&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-source=strongmail&utm-term=listing>

CityHopper

Brisbane City Council's CityHopper is a free inner city ferry service for the Brisbane River. You can hop on and hop off the CityHopper at six stops between North Quay and Sydney Street, New Farm. The service runs every 30 minutes between 5.30am and midnight, seven days a week.

<https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/traffic-and-transport/public-transport/citycat-and-ferry-services/cityhopper>

Please, please remember to bring your children dressed in appropriate clothing for this very cold weather we are having now. Our yard is at the back and quite often misses the full effect of the sun so it can be cold!



Also please make sure you are bringing sheets for your children daily and a blanket as well.

Brooke and Candice NOMINATED SUPERVISORS

NURSERY NEWS

Firstly, we would all like to extend a warm welcome to our new baby, **Justus**.

I would also like to say a huge congratulations to all those children who have graduated into the Toddler room.

The babies have been very busy in the last month making Mother's Day cards for all our mums and lots of other activities including rainbow hand printing, painting, making butterflies with handprints, and colouring. **We hope all our lovely Mums had a happy Mother's Day!**



On the 7th of May we had a special morning tea to celebrate **Mother's Day**. There was a lot of yummy food for all of us to share! After morning tea, it was time to pamper our mothers to show them we love them very much. We spoiled our mums by doing their nails and putting some special cream on their hands, face, and arms. We had lots of fun with our mums!

There were lots of activities including face painting, bubbles, collage painting and more. We also decorated bags for our mums. Thank you to all our mums for joining in with us!

We were also celebrating multiculturalism. For example, we all tried wearing colourful traditional clothes from different cultures. Even our teachers wore their cultural clothes and they looked very nice!



(Learning outcome 2:1C Take action to assist other children to participate in social groups.)

June the 2nd was our photo day. All our children dressed up very nicely and posed for photos. Most of them were eager to sit in front of the camera and enjoyed posing for their photo. Some of them had their mums with them and were photographed together. The boys were dressed very smartly in shirts and pants and the girls were wearing lovely dresses. Some of the children were a little bit shy and didn't want to sit by themselves and needed a bit of help from their teachers.



For Reconciliation Week, we did water colour painting on paper boomerangs. To help introduce the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture to the toddlers, we also did some water colour painting in the style of traditional Indigenous artwork.

(Learning outcome: Children are given a chance to experience different cultures through artwork.)



Analysis of learning: Children gain an appreciation of different cultures through creative means. This is also a great experience for their cognitive development.

Our babies are very busy with outdoor activities including passing balls, bike riding, playing in the sandpit, climbing up and down the slide, going through the tunnel, blowing bubbles, having outdoor picnics and playing hide and seek. They are also busy playing with other children and developing friendships amongst themselves.



Reading is a comforting and relaxing experience. The children enjoyed reading books and loved seeing the pictures in the book. Reading assists them to creatively build their knowledge about different features and ideas in the world around them.



As it has been getting cooler, it's great to see blankets and jumpers coming in. Please remember sheets, jumpers, drink bottles and hats are to go home each afternoon. This ensures your children's belongings do not go missing.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding your child's progress or development, please feel free to discuss this with us. Have a fantastic month.

Until next time.

Miss Rehana, Miss Sylvia and Miss Suvada

TODDLER NEWS

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new families to the toddler room. Welcome **Amalia, Hosanna, Evelyn, Josie and Amanuelle**. We look forward to building strong and lasting relationships with you all as your children grow and develop. All the children have been settling in well into their new room as they transition.

If you have any questions or ideas, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are always available and willing to assist in any way we can.

Introducing shapes and colours

Over the last few weeks we have been putting emphasis on teaching shapes and colours to help our toddlers to describe the world around them by sorting, classifying, and describing these noticeable attributes.

Their teachers introduced different props, toys and activities to encourage and support the children's curiosity

in exploring shapes and colours. Our toddlers begin to identify and readily recognise basic shapes and colours by pronouncing the right name and pointing to the right shapes on the poster placed in the room as a constant reminder of their knowledge.



Manipulating play dough to discover shape

As the Latin proverb says "Repetitio est mater studiorum" ("Repetition is the mother of learning"), we have been taking the opportunity to affirm what our toddlers have already learned in relation to shapes and colours. We have enhanced their knowledge by repeating the teaching of shapes and colours through a variety of repetitive activities which they really enjoyed. We have been cooking "Shape Pizzas", decorating them, sprinkling with favourite shapes on the top and discussing proudly the taste and cooking process to develop children's social interaction and language skills. To extend children's knowledge about shapes and colours we provided them with different activities from playing with pop up shape toys, matching shapes, jumping into certain shapes which we drew on the driveway in our bigger playground, comparing the sizes (bigger, smaller), counting them (how many, numbers), drawing shapes in the sandpit and finding that is such fun standing inside them together with our friends, manipulating play dough to create different shapes etc.



We had a lot of fun but also useful time providing us with many learning outcomes:

Creativity and imaginative play

Hand-Eye coordination

Fine motor skills

Social interaction



Gross motor skills

Shape recognition

Language development and communication

Teach Children to Respect by Treating them with Respect

We have been teaching our toddlers how nice it is to respect others' needs by modelling the behaviour we want to encourage. While the children learn desirable behaviour as they grow, they look up to their teachers or parents to imitate this behaviour. For those who wake up, we provide some quiet activities such as reading books, talking quietly with their teachers, and sitting nicely while their friends are still sleeping. Introducing the magic word "please" to give instructions to our children, we show them how we would like them to act. Every time we praise our children's good behaviour we encourage them to do that and help them to feel good inside by behaving nicely with others.



Miss Anna, Miss Nusrat and Miss Nada

JUNIOR KINDY NEWS

A lot of fun and learning is happening in the **Junior Kindy** room. We are providing rich learning experiences for the children to enhance their overall development. The details of daily learning activities can be seen on our OWNA applications.

We wished Happy Birthday to **Zahlia** and **Amanda** and thanked the families who brought in lovely cakes for the children. We welcomed **Nina Baron** to junior kindy as she moved up from the Toddler Room. Here is the summary of children's learning activities:



Construction: The children constructed towers, buildings, and houses with different types of blocks. **Thomas** constructed a beautiful house with blocks. To extend the children's interest in construction, we provided more options for construction work in which they made cars with mobile blocks and played with dominos. The children learned to manipulate things to create imaginative things which enhances their cognitive skills and helps in brain development.

Early mathematics: The first steps towards early mathematic skills is to learn mathematics while playing. We

organise age-appropriate activities for the children to develop early mathematic skills. They learn as they engage in play. The children learn to recognise shapes by playing with a shape sorter, by recognising shapes made with play dough and magnetic board shapes. They learn to count while jumping on hopscotch blocks and by popping bubbles on pop up bubble toys. Most of our children can count to ten and can also recognise basic shapes such as a circle, triangle and square. The children also stretch putty and compare different lengths with their friends.

Healthy eating: The children love to perform pretend cooking in the home corner. **Arlo** learned to make egg sandwiches and Henry learned the names of different fruits and vegetables. We encourage children to adopt healthy eating habits by avoiding junk foods. **Henry** and **Thomas** promised that they will not eat too many lollies. The children are "increasing awareness of healthy lifestyle and good nutrition" (Learning outcome: 3.21).

Physical activity: Physical activity is essential for the children's overall development. Children develop fine and gross motor skills by performing different activities indoors and outdoors. They have rides on bikes, climb on the fort and we set up an indoor jumping activity in which the children take several turns to jump onto a pillow. They play with play dough and sensory rice which enhances their fine motor abilities.

Social skills: The children are learning social skills as they participate in group activities. They are learning to share play equipment and showing respect for others' perspectives. The children are developing resilience and sense of agency by working collaboratively during group experiences (Learning outcome 1). They approach positively with their friends and reach out for company and friendship.



That is all for now and we will see you next time.

Thank you.
Miss Pari and Miss Tania

KINDY NEWS

Sustainability

This month we started a focus on sustainability and as a class the children learnt how they can contribute to a sustainable environment both in their homes and here at the Centre. We discussed ways that as a class we can practice sustainability such as turning off electrical items, lights and watching how much water we use. As a class we looked at different types of energies, how we can conserve energy and the purposes we can use it for. We made our own compost. This will be a great opportunity for the children to develop their understanding of, and learn how they can care for, the environment. Now we have set up our compost materials we will wait for it to become like a mulch before we place it in our new compost bin. The compost will be an activity that the children can participate in and contribute to. As an extension to learning about sustainability **Miss Monica** introduced the children to mime actions. She knows that the children have been learning about sustainable practices and caring for the environment. She discussed with the children and then demonstrated through mime ways that children could practise sustainability. **Miss Monica** then encouraged the children to participate in learning mime actions. The children really enjoy learning how to mime with **Miss Monica**.



Room Set Up

We recently had our carpets cleaned which was a great opportunity to explore the space and create a new environment for the children. The room resources and furniture have been moved to different areas and for now, the children are responding well to the new changes in the environment.

Keep Your Hands To Yourself



Our main focus this month has been on the topic of keeping hands to yourself. There has been a need to redefine what this means and how as individuals the children need to be aware of others, their feelings and their personal space including peers, teachers and parents. This topic was

approached using visual aids and educational videos that explained to the children how to keep hands to themselves and the importance of personal space. Knowing people and their body boundaries is important as it gives us cues for knowing how to interact with them and what they feel comfortable with. I have been using the book **"No, Means, No!"** to demonstrate this. I have also been using educational videos to help children understand how they can be empowered to say No! when they don't feel comfortable.

New activities

We have been exploring new ways of creating a sense of wonder in the classroom. I have been using coloured counters of different types as learning aides. This has been very popular with the children. We have been working on a reflective space and, in our space, we have placed a tent. The tent is a place where children can have some quiet time when needed. Using reflective surfaces such as mirrors and plastic easels have been productive as learning tools as they encourage the children to develop their imagination.



Under 8's Day

This month the children were invited to a special day at **St Brendan's School**. The children attended a variety of organised activities that were run by the local school and facilitated by the teaching staff. The children had a wonderful time and look forward to attending more organised events with the local school St Brendan's.

Parents Please Note

As the weather is getting colder, I would like to encourage all parents to provide warmer clothing for the children and enclosed footwear is recommended. Hats are still required and water bottles. Can you please label all belongings as this will lessen confusion.

If you have any questions or would like to contribute to the program please don't hesitate to ask

The Kindergarten Staff,
Andrew, Tania, Bella

It's never too early to start talking about online safety.... (Cont'd from page 1)

Often by age 3, children are watching programs and playing games online, as well as exploring the internet with parents, carers and early childhood educators. By age 4, some children can independently navigate the internet on a touchscreen — children no longer need the motor skills or literacy required to use a mouse and keyboard to access the online world.

Also, the 'Internet of Things' is growing and household items like smart speakers and children's toys can record and share data, blurring online and online activities.

In fact, according to 81 percent of Australian parents, their 2- to 5-year-old uses the internet.

There are many benefits to connecting online, but there are also potential harms that children may not yet understand.

The risk of exposure to these harms increases with the amount of time they spend online, but simply restricting screen use is not enough to protect them.

It's important to help your child build their digital intelligence so they have the skills to protect themselves long after they have left your side. This is why we say it's never too early to start talking about online safety/

What are the risks?

There are three main types of risk to keep in mind, so you can help prevent unintentional exposure.

- **Contact risks** — for example, your child may talk or play online with someone they don't know; or their data may be harvested while they are playing with a connected device, revealing personal information like their name, age and location.
- **Conduct risks** — for example, others may be unkind or disrespectful to your child; this may escalate into cyberbullying (threatening, intimidating, harassing, or humiliating a child online); or later in life, your child's permanent 'digital footprint' may include information and images they would prefer were not public, such as photos of them that you or other family members or friends once tagged and shared online.
- **Content risks** — for example, your child could watch poor quality shows or play games unsuitable for their age; or they may accidentally view age-inappropriate content, like pornography.

Interestingly, one of eSafety's consultants, Professor Susan Edwards, found that 89% of 4-year-olds would click on a pop-up, even if they could not read it and did not know what it was about. Also, 73% of 4-year-olds surveyed said they would tell someone their name and address online, and 70% would tell them their age.

This is why it's important to model good screen habits and talk to your child early about using digital technology safely, even before they know the difference between being 'online' and 'offline'.

Practical tips to use with under 5s

Many of us didn't need online safety skills when we were children. So, we are still learning how to manage the risks ourselves. To help parent and carers of children under 5, eSafety has developed some easy-to-follow tips.

1. Model good screen habits

The first thing you can do as a parent or carer is to be more aware of how you interact with digital technology, especially how often you pick up your phone. This can start from when your child is a baby — remember, they are watching and learning from you every moment. Think about how much time you devote to texting, checking social media or being distracted by screens.

2. Set some rules

Toddlers and preschoolers can learn rules to keep them safe while they are using devices, like when to ask for help. They can also be encouraged to think critically about who can contact them and how sharing information might affect them.

You can fill out our family tech agreement with your child to help set some boundaries – the characters from ABC Play School make it fun to do. You can also watch a special Play School together.

3. Start talking about using screens safely

Talking about using screens safely from a very early age encourages habits that will help your child as they explore, learn, create and connect with others online. You can begin by talking to toddlers and preschoolers about what you are doing on your screen as you search for an address, send a text or post a picture on social media. Encourage them to ask questions and help them to understand what you are doing and why. You can also talk to your child about what they like to do online – read to help guide this discussion. Next, start including our four key eSafety Early Years messages in your conversations — they will help your child both online and offline.

- **Be safe** — help your child understand the connected world, how they can protect their personal information and who it is safe to communicate with online.
- **Be kind** — show your child how to be kind and respectful online and model good habits around device use and online sharing.
- **Ask for help** — teach your child when to ask for help and let them know they can come to you with any issue.
- **Make good choices** — help your child to think critically about the content they watch and how they spend their time online.